CLAIMS

1. An interface device for providing an interface between testing equipment and an integrated circuit to be tested, the interface device comprising a body member; a number of elongate contact members, each elongate contact member comprising a contact end, adapted to contact a bond pad of an integrated circuit to be tested, and a body portion coupled to the body member; and a guide member mounted on the body member, the guide member comprising a substantially planar member having a number of apertures therein, the contact end of each elongate member extending through a respective aperture in the guide member, and the width of each contact end being less than the width of the respective aperture to permit lateral movement of each contact end within the respective aperture.

2. An interface device according to claim 1, wherein the elongate contact member is formed from metal wire with a diameter of 1 mil to 10 mil (25μm to 250μm).

3. An interface device according to claim 2, wherein the elongate contact member has a diameter of between 1 mil to 6 mils (25μm to 150μm).

sub A1

~~4. An interface device according to any of claims 1 to 3,~~

sub A1 conc.

wherein the planar member is manufactured from a glass material.

5. An interface device according to claim 4, wherein the glass material is borosilicate glass.

6. An elongate member for an interface device for providing an interface between testing equipment and an integrated circuit to be tested, the elongate member comprising a body portion and a contact end, the contact end adapted to contact a bond pad on an integrated circuit to be tested, and the contact end having a friction reducing coating.

7. An elongate member according to claim 6, wherein the tip surface of the contact ends is coated with the friction reducing coating.

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8. An elongate member according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the coating is a hard coating.

9. An elongate member according to claim 8, wherein the hard coating is selected from chrome nitride and titanium nitride.

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10. An interface device according to any of claims 1 to 5,

sub A3 conc.

wherein the elongate members are in accordance with any of claims 6 to 9.

11. An interface device according to claim 10, wherein the side surfaces of the contact ends are coated with the friction reducing coating.

12. A method of forming a through bore in a piece of material comprising generating a substantially parallel beam of coherent light, illuminating an object having a substantially circular cross section with a diameter less than the diameter of the beam with the substantially parallel beam to form an annular beam, and focusing the annular beam onto the piece of material so that the annular beam incident on the piece of material has an external diameter corresponding to that of the desired through bore to burn away a corresponding annular piece of material to form the through bore.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the coherent light is generated be a laser.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the laser light is generated by an excimer laser.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the light

generated by the excimer laser has a wavelength of approximately 193nm.

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16. A method according to any of claims 12 to 15, wherein the through bore to be formed in the piece of material is less than 100µm.

17. An interface device according to any of claims 1 to 5, 10 or 11, wherein the apertures in the guide member are formed using a method in accordance with any of claims 12 to 16.